



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IV

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

An advisory against eating fish in the Coosa River below Rome, Georgia today was extended through Lake Weiss across the stateline in Alabama. High levels of the chemical PCB were found in both commercial and game fish taken from the sprawling lake.

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency posted the warnings on fish caught in Lake Weiss, a reservoir which is fed by the Coosa River. Georgia pollution control officials earlier had cited risks in eating fish caught in the Coosa river on the Georgia side.

The Federal Drug and Food Administration has recommended a polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) level of five parts per million as the safety level for fish and shell fish.

Some channel catfish from the lake contained PCB's higher than 50 parts per million. Game fish, while considerably lower, also exceeded the established safety level.

Jack E. Ravan, Regional Administrator of EPA, commented: "New data on fish taken from Lake Weiss show much higher PCB levels than previously reported. Citizens should be cautioned against eating

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fish taken from the lake, especially channel catfish caught in this area."